



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Department of Health

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Public Health Director

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PRESS RELEASE

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Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Found in Manchester Mosquitoes Public Reminded to Remain Vigilant

Manchester, NH – The Manchester Health Department announced today that mosquitoes collected in Manchester on September 14, 2005 have tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

According to Fred Rusczek, MPH, Manchester's Public Health Director, "We want to remind the public that the mosquito season is not yet over. Everyone must continue to remain vigilant in eliminating mosquito breeding areas, and taking personal precautions including the use of an insect repellent containing DEET, to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes."

The Manchester Health Department has established an information line to assist citizens with concerns and questions about WNV and EEE. The phone number is 624-6466, Ext. #325 and is staffed during normal business hours. After normal business hours, citizens can leave a voice message that will be returned the next business day.



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Prevention Guidelines for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis

1. Eliminate standing water and other mosquito breeding locations.

- Remove old tires from your property.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or other containers. Don't overlook containers that have become overgrown by aquatic vegetation.
- Drill holes in the bottom of containers that are left outside.
- Make sure roof gutters are clean and properly draining.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and hot tubs. If not in use, keep empty and covered and keep cover free of standing water.
- Aerate garden ponds or stock them with fish.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and wading pools when not in use.
- Change the water in birdbaths at least twice weekly.
- Remind or help neighbors to eliminate breeding sites on their property.

2. Be aware of where mosquitoes live and breed and keep them from entering your home.

- Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water. Weeds, tall grass, and bushes provide an ideal outdoor home for the adult *Culex pipiens* mosquito (the common northern house mosquito), which is most commonly associated with West Nile Virus.
- Mosquitoes can enter homes through unscreened windows or doors, or broken screens. Make sure that all doors and windows have tight-fitting screens and repair or replace all screens in your home that have tears or holes.

3. Protect yourself from mosquito bites.

- If outside during evening, nighttime, or dawn hours when mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite, children and adults should wear protective clothing such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and socks.
- Consider using an effective insect repellent containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-methyl-meta-tolamide). Use a repellent containing 10% or less DEET for children, and no more than 30% DEET for adults. Use DEET containing insect repellents according to the manufacture's directions. Children should not apply DEET to themselves. Repellents that contain Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus have also been determined to be effective.
- Vitamin B, ultrasonic devices, incense, and bug zappers have not been shown to be effective in preventing mosquito bites.

For more information, contact the Manchester Health Department's West Nile Virus information line at 624-6466 x325.